

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CANBER 01612 210757 Z

13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 210715 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0571

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T CANBERRA 1612

EXDIS ( NOFORN)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, KN, KS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN CONVERSATION WITH NORTH KOREA, SOVIET UNION AND CHINA ON CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA

REF: CANBERRA 1091

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON MICHAEL COOK, ASST. SEC. DFA MARCH 21 TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON AUSTRALIAN INTENTION TO CONTACT NORTH KOREANS. COOK STATED CONTACT HAD BEEN MADE IN JAKARTA AND THAT NORTH KOREANS HAD SEEMED GENUINELY PLEASED AND HAD SUGGESTED NUMEROUS WAYS OF IMPROVING CONTACTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

ACCORDING TO COOK, AUSTRALIANS HAVE AGREED TO LOOK AT POSSIBILITY OF NORTH KOREAN TRADE UNION DELEGATION VISITING AUSTRALIA. HE WAS SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE SINCE ALTHOUGH PLEASED, NORTH KOREANS MIGHT FEEL SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED AT AUSTRALIAN APPROACH WHICH EMPHASIZED GOA WAS NOT ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

2. WITH REGARD TO GOA'S SOUNDING OUT BOTH MOSCOW AND PEKING TO SEE IF EITHER RUSSIA OR CHINA WOULD BE WILLING TO PARALLEL AUSTRALIAN ACTION WITH REGARD TO NORTH KOREA WITH ACTIONS OF THEIR OWN TOWARD SOUTH KOREA, COOK SIAD

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PAGE 02 CANBER 01612 210757 Z

RESULTS HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTING. AUSTRALIAN REP IN MOSCOW  
WAS TOLD THAT SOVIET UNION DID NOT HAVE RELATIONS  
WITH SOUTH KOREA AND THAT THEY SAW NO NEED TO ESTABLISH  
THEM NOW. IN PEKING, COOK SAID, RESPONSE WAS LESS  
DIRECT AND WAS TO EFFECT THAT CHINESE CONTACTS WITH  
SOUTH KOREA WOULD DEPEND GOOD DEAL UPON PROGRESS OF NORTH-  
SOUTH TALKS AND ATTITUDES WHICH DEVELOPED AS RESULT OF  
TALKS. IN SUM, COOK SAID, PROSPECT IS NOT BRIGHT THAT  
EITHER RUSSIA OR CHINA WILL APPROACH SOUTH KOREA TO  
ESTABLISH CONTACTS. HIS REASONING, IN ADDITION TO  
THE FOREGOING, IS THAT NEITHER ONE CAN AFFORD TO TAKE THE  
FIRST STEP AND UNTIL SITUATION IN KOREA ITSELF CHANGES,  
IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT EITHER RUSSIA OR CHINA  
WILL MOVE IN DIRECTION SUGGESTED BY AUSTRALIANS.

3. WHEN ASKED ABOUT PROSED VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER KIM  
OF SOUTH KOREA, COOK CONFIRMED THAT KIM MIGHT COME  
TOWARD END OF MAY WHEN THERE APPEARED TO BE TIME IN BUSY  
AUSTRALIAN SCHEDULE OF MEETING AND GREETING OFFICIAL  
VISITORS TO CANBERRA. COOK SAID LETTER FROM PRESIDENT  
PARK OF SOUTH KOREA REGARDING PROPOSED AUSTRALIAN OVERA-  
TURES TO NORTH KOREA HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND FIRMLY BUT  
POLITELY ANSWERED BY PM WHITLAM TO EFFECT THAT AUSTRALIA  
WAS GOING AHEAD AS PLANNED. COOK VOLUNTEERED THAT MINISTER  
FOR OVERSEAS TRADE CAIRNS PLANS TO STOP IN SEOUL EN ROUTE TO  
CHINA TO PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL ROK- AUSTRALIAN  
TRADE TALKS IN APRIL.

RICE

SECRET

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

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